

KINSHIP CARE RESOURCE CENTER

"Spanning Generations, Strengthening Families"

January 2007

Dear Kinship Caregiver,

Greetings from Michigan State University. We are writing to you because you are a "kinship caregiver" – a relative caring for another relative's child or children.

The Kinship Care Resource Center and School of Social Work at Michigan State University are committed to supporting kinship caregivers and their families. To help us help caregivers, **we invite you to share *your* experiences as a kinship caregiver by answering the enclosed questionnaire.**

With information from Michigan caregivers, we hope to create new knowledge and greater respect for families doing kinship care. We want to increase community understanding about the benefits and challenges of kinship care. We are trying to help make more resources available for kinship caregiving.

For your protection, a group of university researchers, who are not part of our study, reviewed this project before we could begin mailing questionnaires. To be certain we protect your privacy, only a summary of the combined results from returned questionnaires will be reported. In our reports we will make recommendations about supporting kinship care based on what kinship caregivers tell us. We plan to share study results with family advocates, policy makers, legislators and other researchers.

We know your time is valuable. We appreciate your willingness to share all or some of your story. A pre-paid, addressed envelope is included for you to use. You indicate your voluntary agreement to participate in our study by completing and returning this survey.

You should know if you do identify yourself, by providing contact information, we would know which questionnaire is yours. You can stop participating at any time without penalty or loss of benefits or assistance. If you decide to return a completed questionnaire, you can remain anonymous by not providing contact information. We have no way to know who has returned a questionnaire and who has not.

The MSU Kinship Care Resource Center and School of Social Work salute you for your commitment to the children in your family.

Sincerely yours,



Peg Whalen, Ph.D., M.S.W.
Assistant Clinical Professor
School of Social Work
E-mail: Peg.Whalen@ssc.msu.edu
Phone: (517) 432-5912



Ama Agyemang, M.S.W.
Program Coordinator
MSU Kinship Care Resource Center
E-mail: kinship@msu.edu
Phone: (800) 535-1218
Fax: (517) 694-5615

This consent form was approved by the Social Science/Behavioral/Education Institutional Review Board (SIRB) at Michigan State University. Approved 12/26/06 – valid through 12/27/07. This version supersedes all previous versions.
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Michigan State University School of Social Work

254 Baker Hall • East Lansing, MI • 48824 • (800) 535-1218 • (517) 355-9600 • Fax: (517) 694-5615